



ZAMBIA MEDICINES
REGULATORY
AUTHORITY

ZAMRA NEWSLETTER

FIRST QUARTER 2026



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ZAMRA ENGAGES PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY ON IMPORTATION OF UNREGISTERED MEDICINES



On 5th February 2026, the Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA) convened a crucial stakeholder consultative meeting with representatives from the pharmaceutical industry to address growing concerns about the increasing importation of unregistered medicines and allied substances into Zambia.

ZAMRA Director-General, Mr. Makomani Siyanga, emphasised the Authority's statutory mandate under the Medicines and Allied Substances Act No. 3 of 2013 to ensure that only safe, effective, and quality-assured medicines reach the public.

He highlighted the serious public health risks posed by unregistered products, including medicines, cosmetics, herbal preparations, and medical devices, which often bypass regulatory evaluation and may compromise patient safety.

Mr. Siyanga reaffirmed the Authority's commitment to strengthening regulatory controls through enhanced import/export permit systems, routine

inspections, post-marketing surveillance, and collaboration with law enforcement agencies to intercept illegal consignments.

He also called for multi-sectoral collaboration involving government agencies, industry players, and the public to uphold compliance and protect the integrity of Zambia's healthcare system.

This engagement marked a significant step towards safeguarding public health by eliminating unregistered and potentially harmful products from the market, ensuring that all medicines available in Zambia meet the highest standards of quality and safety.

Speaking at the same event, Kankoyo Member of Parliament Hon. Heartson Mabeta commended ZAMRA for constantly consulting and engaging with the pharmaceutical industry regarding issues of public health.

IBA, ZAMRA AND ZIM DISCUSS WAY FORWARD ON UNAPPROVED MEDICAL ADVERTS

The Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) on 5th March 2026, hosted a high-level consultative meeting with the Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA) and the Zambia Institute of Marketing (ZIM) to address critical issues surrounding the advertising of unapproved medicines and allied substances in Zambia.

The engagement brought together key institutional leaders, including IBA Director-General, Mr. Webster Malido Nyambe; then ZAMRA Acting Director-General Mr. Lyoko Nyambe; and ZIM Registrar/Chief Executive Officer Mr. Danny Chanda.

The meeting underscored a shared commitment to promoting responsible, ethical, and compliant advertising practices within the health and marketing sectors.

At the heart of the discussion was the growing concern over the promotion of unapproved medical products, which poses significant risks to public health and safety.

Misleading or unverified claims in medical advertising can lead to inappropriate use of medicines, delayed treatment, and, in some cases, serious health consequences.



Against this backdrop, the three institutions emphasized the need for stricter adherence to regulatory frameworks governing the promotion of medicines and allied substances.

The meeting provided a platform for technical staff from the three institutions to contribute insights and propose practical measures to enhance coordination and enforcement. Among the key outcomes was a renewed commitment to collaborative action, including information sharing, joint sensitization initiatives, and strengthened monitoring mechanisms.

Such multi-sectoral collaboration is essential in fostering a compliant advertising environment, particularly in the marketing of medical products where public trust and safety are paramount.

Ultimately, these efforts contribute to protecting consumers, supporting ethical marketing practices, and reinforcing confidence in Zambia's health regulatory systems.

EASTERN PROVINCE AWARENESS ACTIVITIES



From the 22nd to the 28th of February 2026, the Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA) was in Chipata, Eastern Province for its first provincial awareness programme ahead of the Nc'wala traditional ceremony.

A combined team of officers from ZAMRA headquarters and the Eastern Regional Office took advantage of the masses that visit the province during this period to create awareness on the mandate of the Authority, and used the platform to get feedback from stakeholders.

Sensitisation activities included:

- 01 Visitation to pharmaceutical outlets
- 02 Media interviews
- 03 Courtesy calls to partners
- 04 Stand exhibitions
- 05 Community sensitisation through the ZANIS Public Address System

During media interviews, emphasis was placed on the critical role ZAMRA plays in ensuring quality, safe and efficacious medicines and medical products.

Further, clients were reminded of the need for compliance, responsible distribution, and adherence to regulatory requirements to ensure protection of human and animal health.



UTH PARTNERS WITH ZAMRA: STRENGTHENING SAFETY MONITORING OF MEDICINES



The University Teaching Hospitals (UTH) on the 28th of February, 2026, hosted a training session organised by the Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA), which brought together 35 healthcare professionals from the five hospitals under UTH and aimed at strengthening safety monitoring of medicines and allied substances.

The program aligned with the World Health Organisation (WHO) Global Benchmarking Tool and the objectives of the African Union Model Law, both of which promote stronger and more effective regulatory systems.

During the session, participants were taken through key aspects of safety monitoring, including the detection, management, reporting, and assessment of adverse effects associated with the use of medicines, vaccines, medical devices, nutritional supplements, blood, and blood products.

The training forms part of the Authority's broader strategy to improve signal detection, data analysis, risk communication, public sensitisation, and stakeholder collaboration in order to ensure the safe use of medicines in Zambia.



This marked the first of several onsite trainings and orientations scheduled for healthcare workers in Lusaka health facilities in 2026, an initiative which reflects the continued collaboration between UTH and ZAMRA to promote patient safety, improve clinical outcomes, and uphold high standards in healthcare delivery.

Through such partnerships, ZAMRA remains committed to supporting national efforts aimed at ensuring the safe and effective use of medicines and allied health products for the benefit of all patients.

ZAMRA CELEBRATES WOMEN'S DAY 2026



It was a hive of activity on the 8th of March when the Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA), joined the world in celebrating the strength, resilience, and achievements of women and girls globally. This was at a colourful 2026 International Women's Day commemoration officiated by H.E President Hakainde Hichilema at the showgrounds in Lusaka.

ZAMRA recognises and appreciates the invaluable contributions that women make in advancing healthcare, safeguarding public health, and strengthening our communities.

From healthcare professionals and scientists to regulators, caregivers, and innovators, women continue to play a vital role in ensuring the safety, quality, and efficacy of medicines and medical products.



In line with this year's International Women's Day theme, "Rights, Justice and Action for All Women and Girls," the Authority reaffirms its commitment to promoting equality, protecting rights, and supporting meaningful action that empowers women and girls to thrive.

ZAMRA celebrates the dedication of women within the institution and across the health sector who work tirelessly to protect public health.

Their passion, leadership, and service inspire progress and create a healthier, more equitable future for all.



ZAMRA GIVES ITS WOMEN A TREAT

On the 13th of March, 2026, the Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA) hosted a special Women's Day luncheon in honour of the remarkable women of the Authority. The event was held at Lusaka Legacy Resort as a gesture of appreciation for the critical role ZAMRA ladies play in the growth of the institution and in advancing its regulatory function.

Speaking through Director Finance, Mr. Matthews Banda, ZAMRA Director-General Mr. Makomani Siyanga commended the women of ZAMRA for their dedication, professionalism, and resilience.

He noted that their contributions continue to strengthen the Authority's mandate of safeguarding public health through effective regulation of medicines and allied substances and reiterated management's commitment to their welfare.

The day was not only celebratory but also empowering, with a series of insightful and practical sessions designed to inspire and equip the ladies both professionally and personally.

Among the activities were:

- Making, Managing and Growing Your Money, facilitated by Ms. Annie Phiri
- Personal Care and Ladies' Etiquette, facilitated by Doctor Tipezenji Sakala
- Mental Health: Causes and Solutions, facilitated by Ms. Lister Mutukwa
- Cocktail Making and Home Management, facilitated by Ms. Trina Nyambe

Meanwhile, Director Human Resources and Administration, Dr. Joseph Kasongo, said the luncheon was a platform for reflection, learning, networking and celebrating the incredible women who continue to drive excellence within ZAMRA.

ONE HEALTH APPROACH: PROMOTING COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA), from the 16th to the 20th of March 2026, joined experts from various institutions at a workshop organised by the Zambia National Public Health Institute (ZNPHI) and aimed at strengthening communication and community engagement on the One Health approach.

The workshop, held at Lusaka Legacy Resort, brought together health stakeholders to develop Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials as well as a comprehensive communications toolkit that will guide the One Health 2026 commemorations and nationwide community engagement activities.

Officially opening the workshop, the ZNPHI Director-General, Roma Chilengi, emphasised the importance of coordinated communication across sectors. He noted the need for continued collaboration and coordinated efforts in a bid to improve the health of people, animals, and the environment simultaneously.

ZAMRA was represented by Doctor Tipezenji Sakala from the Veterinary Department, and its Public Relations Officer, Ms. Lister Mutukwa, and remains committed to supporting the One Health agenda by contributing its expertise in the regulation of medicines and allied substances to safeguard public health.



ZAMRA HOSTS SADC VETERINARY ZAZIBONA CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP



The Veterinary Medicines Directorate – United Kingdom (VMD-UK) in collaboration with the Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA), recently convened a capacity building workshop for assessors from across the SADC region aimed at strengthening collaboration and enhancing regulatory expertise in the assessment of veterinary medicines and allied substances.



Officially opening the workshop, ZAMRA Director-General, Mr. Makomani Siyanga, highlighted the importance of training and collaboration in ensuring that veterinary medicines available on the market are quality assured, safe and efficacious.

Representing the Director of Veterinary Medicines at the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Assistant Director, Dr. Fusya Goma commended the initiative, noting that regional collaboration helps reduce the cost of medicines and improve access across the region.

Also speaking at the event, VMD-UK Team Lead, Dr. Osi Oyati stressed the importance of regional cooperation, stating that collaboration does not diminish national sovereignty but rather multiplies impact. He explained that joint assessments and shared regulatory resources help strengthen regulatory systems, accelerate timelines and improve timely access to veterinary medicines.

Meanwhile, Zambia Animal Health National Lead, Dr. Bruce Mkanda expressed optimism that such partnerships will contribute to combating antimicrobial resistance and promoting the responsible use of veterinary medicines and allied substances.

The SADC Veterinary ZAZIBONA Capacity Building Workshop took place from 23rd to 27th March, with participants from Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia, Malawi, Tanzania, South Africa and Zambia.

VET ZAZIBONA PARTICIPANTS VISIT ZAMRA HQ



Participants at the Veterinary ZAZIBONA Capacity Building Workshop visited the Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA) and toured the National Drug Quality Control Laboratory. This activity was more than just symbolic, it was an essential part of building strong, transparent, and effective regulatory collaboration.

The visit provided an opportunity for participants to gain strategic insights and appreciate Zambia's commitment to ensuring the safety, quality, and efficacy of veterinary medicines.



The tour of the National Drug Quality Control Laboratory, on the other hand, offered a great perspective on how scientific testing and quality assurance underpin regulatory decisions.

The experience further deepened the assessors' understanding of how medicines are evaluated and monitored before reaching the market.

Such engagements encourage the exchange of best practices and strengthen regional harmonisation efforts. Ultimately, they contribute to improved access to quality veterinary medicines and the protection of animal and public health across the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) region.

FIRST QUARTER PRODUCT RECALLS



During the first quarter, the Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA) issued an urgent public recall notice on 12th February, 2026, involving the following products:

- **Deltaprim Tablets BP**
(Pyrimethamine 12.5 mg / Dapsone 100 mg)
Batch No.: 24/OO/201
- **Cromohist Eye Drops**
(Sodium Cromoglycate Ophthalmic Solution
USP 2% w/v)
Batch No.: LHLE24038

This recall was undertaken as part of ZAMRA's continuous post-marketing surveillance and product quality monitoring activities to safeguard public health.

Medicine recalls are an essential component of a strong and responsive regulatory system.

A recall should not be interpreted as a weakness in the medicines regulatory framework. Rather, it demonstrates that the system is functioning effectively through:

- 01 Active Post-Marketing Surveillance
- 02 Routine quality monitoring
- 03 Timely risk detection, and
- 04 Rapid regulatory response

The ability to detect, communicate, and remove potentially affected products from circulation is a hallmark of robust Pharmacovigilance and Post-Marketing Surveillance systems.

In this way, recalls reflect regulatory vigilance, transparency, and accountability.

Stay informed!

For the latest updates, visit:

www.zamra.co.zm

PHOTO FOCUS



Public Relations Officer, Ms. Lister Mutukwa featuring on Diamond TV as part of the scheduled media visibility programmes for quarter one.



Director Finance, Mr. Mathews Banda addressing women at the Women's Day Luncheon at Lusaka Legacy Resort.



Participants receive their certificates at the VET ZAZIBONA capacity building training.



Senior Public Relations Officer, Mr. Ludovic Mwape, discussing the ZAMRA mandate on ZNBC TV1 during the N'cwala Traditional Ceremony in Chipata, Eastern Province.



ZAMRA Principal Investigations Officer, Mr. Don S. Mwangana participating in a panel discussion organised by the MAKANDAY Centre for Investigative Journalism focused on a report about the sale of antiretroviral drugs in named illegal mining communities.



ZAMBIA MEDICINES REGULATORY AUTHORITY

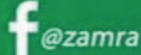
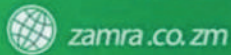
The Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA) is a Government Agency established by the Medicines and Allied Substances Act (No. 3) of 2013. The Authority is mandated to regulate and control medicines and allied substances in order to ensure their consistent conformity to acceptable standards of quality, safety and efficacy.



Our Vision:

“A credible regulator ensuring the protection of human and animal health”

REGISTRATION | LICENSING | AUTHORISATION | REGULATION | INSPECTION | MONITORING



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Our Mission:

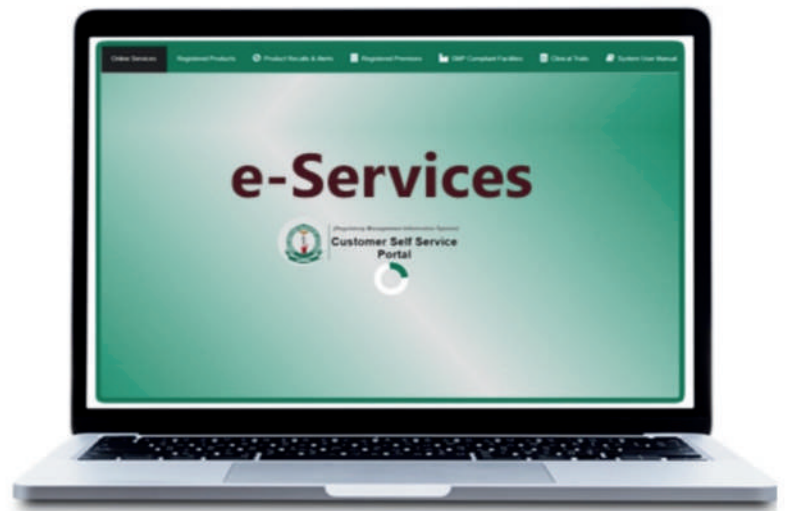
“To effectively regulate medicines and allied substances for quality, safe and efficacious medical products on the Zambian market”.

Our Motto:

ZAMRA “Regulating Medicines for Public and Animal Health Protection”



Service delivery charter



e-services

We are committed to serving you efficiently.

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" ZAMRA: ENSURING HUMAN AND ANIMAL HEALTH PROTECTION. "